

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for producing a recombinant Streptomyces ~~or~~ Saccharopolyspora bacterium, said method comprising:

providing a Streptomyces ~~or a Saccharopolyspora~~ bacterium with an expressible polynucleotide encoding a heterologous SsgA that is not present in the Streptomyces bacterium in nature, the heterologous SsgA comprising SEQ ID NO: 3, said Streptomyces ~~or~~ Saccharopolyspora bacterium lacking detectable endogenous SsgA during submerged culture, with an expressible polynucleotide encoding a heterologous SsgA comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

2. Canceled.

3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein providing the expressible polynucleotide encoding the heterologous SsgA comprises transfecting or transforming said Streptomyces ~~or Saccharopolyspora~~ bacterium with the expressible polynucleotide encoding the heterologous SsgA.

4-7. Canceled.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein said expressible polynucleotide is integrated into the genome of the Streptomyces ~~or Saccharopolyspora~~ bacterium.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein said expressible polynucleotide is part of an episomal element.

10. Canceled.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein expression of the expressible polynucleotide is inducible or repressible with a signal.

12-13. Canceled.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein said Streptomyces or ~~Saccharopolyspora~~-bacterium produces a useful product.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14 wherein said useful product is an antibiotic.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein said useful product is a protein.

17. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein said protein is heterologous to said Streptomyces or ~~Saccharopolyspora~~-bacterium.

18. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein said protein is expressed from a vector encoding said protein present in said Streptomyces or ~~Saccharopolyspora~~-bacterium.

19. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein said protein is secreted by said Streptomyces or ~~Saccharopolyspora~~-bacterium.

20-28. Canceled.

29. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the expressible polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

30. (Currently amended) A method for producing a recombinant Actinomycete bacterium, said method comprising:

transforming an Actinomycete bacterium lacking a detectable endogenous SsgA during submerged culture with a means for enhancing septation and fragmentation in a culture of the Actinomycete bacterium;

wherein the Actinomycete bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Streptomyces coelicolor*, *Streptomyces lividans*, *Streptomyces clavuligerus* and ~~*Saccharopolyspora*~~ *Streptomyces erythraea*.

31. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the means for enhancing septation and fragmentation comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the means for enhancing septation and fragmentation encodes a protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 3.

33. (Currently amended) A method for producing a recombinant Actinomycete bacterium, said method comprising:

transforming an Actinomycete bacterium lacking a detectable endogenous SsgA with a nucleic acid encoding a heterologous SsgA comprising SEQ ID NO: 3;

wherein the Actinomycete bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Streptomyces coelicolor*, *Streptomyces lividans*, *Streptomyces clavuligerus* and ~~*Saccharopolyspora*~~ *Streptomyces erythraea*.

34. Canceled.

35. (New) A method for producing a recombinant *Saccharopolyspora* bacterium, said method comprising providing a *Saccharopolyspora* bacterium with an expressible polynucleotide encoding a heterologous SsgA comprising SEQ ID NO: 3.